

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 14 November 2018 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), M. Bradshaw, Gilligan, Howard, A. Lowe, Joe Roberts, Sinnott and Teeling

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Ferguson, T. Gibbs and A. Moyers

Also in attendance: None

ITEM DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

	<i>Action</i>
EUR17 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 th September 2018 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.	
EUR18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.	
EUR19 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.	
RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.	
EUR20 BUSINESS PLANNING	
The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the Business Plan for 2019/20.	

The Council developed its business plan in parallel with the determination of its annual budget and the refresh of the Corporate Risk Registers.

It was noted that Members now had the opportunity to identify a small number of priorities that they would like to see reflected in the Business Plan. Members were informed that plans could only be finalised once budget decisions had been confirmed in March 2019 and annual targets would be confirmed once the year-end outturn figures for 2018-19 were known.

A draft Plan would be developed and presented to the Board for consideration in the New Year.

The following areas were discussed:

- Waste Management and Open Spaces;
- Economic Regeneration.

The Board agreed that a working group would be set up to discuss the Business Plan with the following membership: Councillors Howard, A. Lowe, Sinnott, Teeling and Woolfall.

RESOLVED: That the Board receive the information provided and consider the priorities to be covered in the Business Plan 2019-2020 (Appendix 1).

EUR21 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2018/19

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 2 of 2018/19.

The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Development and Investment Services;
- Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services;
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space Services; and
- Housing Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the second quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

EUR22 RUNCORN REGENERATION UPDATE: DELINKING AND STATION ACCESS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the planned programmes that see the completion of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) maintenance works, deconstruction of SJB access road infrastructure in Runcorn ('delinking') and the delivery of enhanced access to enable the Runcorn Station area vision. Work at 'Widnes Loops' would be undertaken consecutively with the delinking works in Runcorn.

The Board received a presentation which provided a detailed outline of the works to be undertaken, together with a timetable for completion.

It was noted that the Board had previously set up a Regeneration Working Party. It was agreed that the Working Party should continue to meet with the following membership:

Councillors Morley, Nolan, Sinnott, Teeling and Woolfall.

RESOLVED: That the current position with these programmes is noted.

EUR23 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) S018 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the review of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), a town planning process document. The SCI set out how Councils would engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications.

As with other Local Development Documents, Government required that SCI's should be reviewed, at least every 5 years and the last SCI was adopted in 2013. The SCI would also be updated to include a number of legislative changes to the way that planning documents were prepared.

The Board discussed and received clarification on how Neighbourhood Plans were prepared by a qualifying body and submitted for approval.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve submission of the SCI to Executive Board for adoption.

EUR24 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON SHALE GAS

The Board considered a report which advised on the Council's response to the Government's consultations on changes to the regulation of Shale Gas exploitation. Two consultations had been undertaken by two separate Government Departments. Members noted that permitted development rights (Parliament had already granted an England wide consent for this activity) for mining and minerals exploration and this covers boreholes, seismic surveys and excavations for minerals exploration.

Members were advised that the regulation of shale gas was complex; ultimately environmental matters were for the Environment Agency, through their environmental permits for industrial processes. Gas well integrity / safety was a matter for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The Government's Oil and Gas Authority would monitor compliance with the conditions of the terms in the PEDL (Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence). Finally a Hydraulic Fracturing Consent licence was needed from BEIS. Despite these overlapping regulatory regimes, the only one that involved public consultation was on planning applications, at which point there was an expectation that all aspects would be considered. However, the Government was clear that separate regulatory regimes should not duplicate each other.

As the consultation closed on 25th October 2018, it was not possible to report the responses to the Board prior to the consultation closing. Therefore. Members considered a copy of the respective responses submitted. It was noted that the Council had submitted objections to both consultations.

Arising from the discussion the Board requested that consideration should be given to arrange a seminar for all Members to discuss the implications around Shale Gas exploitation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.